

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended). A DNA sequence encoding a protein capable of binding to TRAF selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a cDNA sequence of the herein designated IREN comprising the nucleotide sequence ~~depicted in Fig. 3~~ of SEQ ID NO:4;

(b) a cDNA sequence of the herein designated IREN-10B comprising the nucleotide sequence ~~depicted in Fig. 4~~ of SEQ ID NO:5;

(c) a cDNA sequence of the herein designated IREN-E comprising the nucleotide sequence ~~depicted in Fig. 5~~ of SEQ ID NO:6;

~~_____ (d) a fragment of a sequence (a) - (c) which encodes a biologically active protein capable of binding to at least the 225-501 amino acid sequence of TRAF2;~~

~~_____ (e) a DNA sequence capable of hybridization to a sequence of (a) - (d) under moderately stringent conditions and which encodes a biologically active protein capable of binding to at least the 225-501 amino acid sequence of TRAF2; and~~

~~(f)~~ (d) a DNA sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to the DNA sequences defined in ~~(a) - (e) (c)~~ and which encodes a biologically active protein capable of binding to at least the 225-501 amino acid sequence of TRAF2.

2 (Currently Amended). A DNA sequence according to claim 1, selected from the group of cDNA sequences herein designated IREN and IREN-10B and IREN-E consisting of SEQ ID NOs:4, 5 and 6.

3-4 (Cancelled)

5 (Currently Amended). A DNA sequence according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, comprising the DNA sequence ~~encoding the protein IREN (as herein defined)~~ of SEQ ID NO:4.

6-8 (Cancelled)

10 (Currently Amended). A vector comprising a DNA sequence according to any one of claims ~~1-9~~ 1, 2 and 5.

11 (Original). A vector according to claim 10 capable of being expressed in a eukaryotic host cell.

12 (Original). A vector according to claim 10 capable of being expressed in a prokaryotic host cell.

13 (Currently Amended). Transformed eukaryotic or prokaryotic host cells containing a vector according to ~~any one of claims 10-12~~ claim 10.

14-29 (Cancelled)

30 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition for modulating the TRAF2 modulated/mediated effect on cells comprising, as active ingredient, a recombinant animal virus vector encoding a protein capable of binding a cell surface receptor and encoding at least one IREN protein, ~~isoform, active fragments or analogs, according to~~ encoded by any one of claims ~~14 to 171~~, 2 and 5.

31 (Cancelled)

32 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention or treatment of a pathological condition associated with NF- κ B induction or with any other activity mediated by TRAF2 or by other molecules to which a protein ~~according to~~ encoded by any one of claims ~~14 to 171~~, 2 and 5 binds, said composition comprising an effective amount of a protein encoded by ~~IREN-10B~~ SEQ ID NO:5 or a DNA molecule coding therefor, or a molecule capable of disrupting the interaction of said protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:5 ~~IREN-10B~~ with TRAF2 or any other molecule to which a protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:5 ~~IREN-10B~~ binds.

33 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention or treatment of a pathological condition associated with NF- κ B induction or with any other activity mediated by TRAF2 or by other molecules to which a

protein ~~according to~~ encoded by any one of claims ~~14 to 171~~, 2
and 5 binds, said composition comprising an effective amount
of a protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4, ~~IREN, isoform, fragment,~~
~~analog or derivative thereof,~~ or a DNA molecule coding
therefor, or a molecule capable of disrupting the interaction
of said protein ~~IREN, isoform, fragment, analog or derivative~~
~~thereof~~ encoded by SEQ ID NO:4 with TRAF2 or any other
molecule to which said protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4 ~~IREN,~~
~~isoform, fragment, analog or derivative~~ binds.

34 (Cancelled)

35 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical
composition for the prevention or treatment of a pathological
condition associated with NF- κ B induction or with any other
activity mediated by TRAF2 or by other molecules to which a
protein encoded by ~~IREN-10B according to claim 15~~ SEQ ID NO:5
binds, said composition comprising an effective amount of a
protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:5 ~~IREN-10B~~ or a DNA molecule
coding therefor, or a molecule capable of disrupting the
interaction of said protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:5 ~~IREN-10B~~
with TRAF2 or any other molecule to which said protein encoded
by SEQ ID NO:5 ~~IREN-10B~~ binds.

36 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical
composition for the prevention or treatment of a pathological
condition associated with NF- κ B induction or with any other

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activity mediated by TRAF2 or by other molecules to which a
protein ~~IREN, isoform, fragment, analog or derivative~~encoded
by a DNA according to ~~claim 16 or 17~~claims 1, 2 or 5 binds,
said composition comprising an effective amount of a protein
~~IREN, isoform, fragment, analog or derivative thereof~~encoded
by SEQ ID NO:4, or a DNA molecule coding therefor, or a
molecule capable of disrupting the interaction of said protein
encoded by SEQ ID NO:4~~IREN, isoform, fragment, analog or~~
~~derivative thereof~~ with TRAF2 or any other molecule to which
said protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4~~IREN, isoform, fragment,~~
~~analog or derivative~~ binds.

37-46 (Cancelled)